



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/646,135	08/22/2003	Brian C. Wieck	P1927US00	8936
24333	7590	03/23/2006	EXAMINER	
GATEWAY, INC. ATTN: Patent Attorney 610 GATEWAY DRIVE MAIL DROP Y-04 N. SIOUX CITY, SD 57049			LEE, CHRISTOPHER E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2112	

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/646,135

Applicant(s)

WIECK, BRIAN C.

Examiner

Christopher E. Lee

Art Unit

2112

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-14 and 17-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-14 and 17-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the request filed on 8th of March 2006 for a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 based on the Application No. 10/646,135, which the request is acceptable and an RCE has been established. Claim 1 has been amended; no claim has been canceled; and
5 no claim has been newly added since the Final Office Action was mailed on 9th of December 2005. Currently, claims 1-5, 7-14, and 17-27 are pending in this Application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness
10 rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the
15 manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4, 7-12, 19, 20, 22, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Charles et al. [US 6,044,215 A; hereinafter Charles] in view of Germagian et al. [US 6,894,457 B2; hereinafter Germagian].

20 *Referring to claim 1*, Charles discloses a remote docking station apparatus (i.e., apparatus for expansion of a computer; See Abstract) comprising:

- a remote docking station body (i.e., housing 100 of Fig. 1A),
- a power converter (i.e., DC power supply board 126 of Fig. 2) contained within said remote docking station body (See col. 3, lines 66-67), wherein said power converter (i.e., DC power
25 supply board) has an input side (i.e., the pins coupled to conductors 130 in Fig. 2) and an output side (i.e., the pins coupled to five conductor cable 128 in Fig. 2),
- an externally accessible power input connector interface (i.e., AC receptacle 112 of Fig. 1B), said power input connector interface configured to connect to a power input cable (i.e., said AC

receptacle being configured to connect to power cable 114 in Fig. 1B) and is in electrical communication with said input side of said power converter (i.e., supplying power to said DC power supply board; See col. 6, lines 46-47),

- at least one externally accessible peripheral connector interface (i.e., mouse port 104, keyboard port 106, video port 12, parallel port 110 and serial port 113 in Fig. 1A-B),
- an externally accessible output connector interface (i.e., PCMCIA port 102 of Fig. 1A) wherein said output connector interface (i.e., PCMCIA port) is in electrical communication with said output side of said power converter (i.e., said DC power supply board supplying power to said PCMCIA port, e.g., pins 18 and 51^{cf. PCMCIA}, in particular; See col. 6, lines 48-53) and is in electrical communication with each of said at least one peripheral connector interface (i.e., all electrical signals from said mouse port, keyboard port, video port, parallel port and serial port being interfaced with said PCMCIA port; See col. 3, lines 28-50); and
- a multipurpose interface cable (i.e., PCMCIA cable 118 of Fig. 1A) configured to connect said output connector interface to a computer (i.e., said PCMCIA cable being configured to connect to portable computer 122 in Fig. 1A).

Charles does not teach said power converter including means for selecting a power output level from at least two power output levels that is to set the power output level available at said power output side of said power output converter, said selecting means being controllable by a user and said selecting means being externally accessible via said remote docking station body.

Germagian discloses a universal multiple device power adapter (See Abstract and Fig. 5), wherein

- a power converter (i.e., power adapter 110 in Fig. 5; See col. 6, lines 53-67) including means for selecting a power output level (i.e., selector switch 121 of Fig. 5; See col. 5, lines 10-18) from at

^{cf. PCMCIA} Charles discloses that a cable 118 of Fig. 1A is a PCMCIA specification compliant, at col. 6, lines 17-18.

least two power output levels (i.e., 15-20 volts DC in Fig. 5) that is to set the power output level available at said power output side of said power output converter (See col. 5, lines 10-15),

- said selecting means (i.e., said selector switch) being controllable by a user (i.e., user turns rotary selector switch for selecting said power output level; See Figs. 4-5, and col. 5, lines 10-11) and
- 5 • said selecting means (i.e., said selector switch) being externally accessible via a remote docking station body (i.e., said selector switch could be accessible via the knob of said rotary selector switch on the housing of said power adapter; See Figs. 4-5).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined said power converter (i.e., power adapter), as disclosed by Germagian, with said power converter (i.e., DC power supply board), as disclosed by Charles, for the advantage of
10 accommodating different input power sources, including domestic AC, internal and external DC, and international AC power sources, and providing typical voltages required by portable computers (See Germagian, col. 2, lines 45-47, and col. 5, lines 15-17).

15 *Referring to claim 2, Charles teaches*

- said computer (i.e., portable computer 122 of Fig. 1A) is a portable computer (See col. 5, line 54).

Referring to claim 3, Charles teaches said power input cable (i.e., power cable 114 of Fig. 1B) comprises:

- 20 • a first power input cable end (i.e., 3 prong plug at the end of said power cable 114 in Fig. 1B) configured to connect to a power supply source (e.g., wall-mount outlet; See Fig. 1B and col. 6, lines 46-47); and
- a second power input cable end (i.e., power connector at the other end of said power cable 114 in Fig. 1B) configured to connect to said power input connector interface (i.e., AC receptacle 112 of
25 Fig. 1B).

Referring to claim 4, Charles teaches

- said first power input cable end (i.e., 3 prong plug at the end of said power cable 114 in Fig. 1B) is configured to connect to a standard electrical socket (i.e., standard 3-prong electrical plug).

5

Referring to claim 7, Germagian teaches

- said power converter (i.e., power adapter 110 in Fig. 5; See col. 6, lines 53-67) comprising an AC to DC power converter (i.e., AC/DC converter; See col. 6, lines 55-58).

Referring to claim 8, Germagian teaches said AC to DC power converter (i.e., AC/DC converter;

10 See col. 6, lines 55-58) comprising

- means for selecting a DC power output level (i.e., selector switch 121 of Fig. 5; See col. 5, lines 10-18),
- said selecting means (i.e., said selector switch) being externally accessible to said remote docking station body (i.e., said selector switch could be accessible to the housing of said power adapter; See Figs. 4-5).

15

Referring to claim 9, Germagian teaches said power converter (i.e., power adapter 110 in Fig. 5;

See col. 6, lines 53-67) comprising

- a DC to DC power converter (i.e., DC/DC converter; See col. 6, lines 55-67).

20

Referring to claim 10, Germagian teaches said DC to DC power converter (i.e., DC/DC

converter; See col. 6, lines 55-67) comprising

- means for selecting a DC power output level (i.e., selector switch 121 of Fig. 5; See col. 5, lines 10-18),

- said selecting means (i.e., said selector switch) being externally accessible to said remote docking station body (i.e., said selector switch could be accessible to the housing of said power adapter; See Figs. 4-5).

5 *Referring to claim 11*, Charles teaches said multipurpose interface cable (i.e., PCMCIA cable 118 of Fig. 1A) comprises:

- a first multipurpose interface cable end (i.e., a second connector 116 of Fig. 1A) configured to connect to said output connector interface (i.e., PCMCIA port 102 of Fig. 1A; See col. 6, lines 25-30), and
- 10 • a second multipurpose interface cable end (i.e., a first connector 120 of Fig. 1A) configured to connect to said computer (i.e., portable computer 122 of Fig. 1A; See col. 6, lines 25-27).

Referring to claim 12, Charles teaches

- said second multipurpose interface cable end (i.e., a first connector 120 of Fig. 1A) is configured
15 to connect to said computer (i.e., portable computer 122 of Fig. 1A) via a single multipurpose connection interface (i.e., PCMCIA socket 124 of Fig. 1A).

Referring to claim 19, Charles teaches

- said at least one peripheral connector interface (i.e., mouse port 104, keyboard port 106, video
20 port 12, parallel port 110 and serial port 113 in Fig. 1A-B) is configured to receive a serial input (i.e., serial data via serial port 113 in Fig. 1B).

Referring to claim 20, Charles teaches

- said at least one peripheral connector interface (i.e., mouse port 104, keyboard port 106, video port 12, parallel port 110 and serial port 113 in Fig. 1A-B) is configured to receive a parallel input (i.e., parallel data via parallel port 110 in Fig. 1B).

5 *Referring to claim 22, Charles teaches*

- said at least one peripheral connector interface (i.e., mouse port 104, keyboard port 106, video port 12, parallel port 110 and serial port 113 in Fig. 1A-B) is configured to receive a PS2 input (i.e., mouse signal via mouse port 104 in Fig. 1B; See col. 6, lines 40-41).

10 *Referring to claim 26, Charles teaches*

- said at least one peripheral connector interface (i.e., mouse port 104, keyboard port 106, video port 12, parallel port 110 and serial port 113 in Fig. 1A-B) is configured to receive a video output (i.e., video signal via video port 12 in Fig. 1B; See video port 12 of Fig. 2, and col. 6, lines 59-61).

15 4. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Charles [US 6,044,215 A] in view of Germagian [US 6,894,457 B2] as applied to claims 1-4, 7-12, 19, 20, 22, and 26 above, and further in view of Palatov [US 5,510,691 A].

20 *Referring to claim 5, Charles, as modified by Germagian, discloses all the limitations of the claim 5, except that does not teach said first power input cable end is configured to connect to an automotive power supply socket.*

Palatov discloses a modular power supply and modular interconnect system (See Abstract and Fig. 6), comprising a power input cable (i.e., plug 31 and connector 35 in Fig. 6) having a first power input cable end (i.e., plug 31 of Fig. 6) configured to connect to a power supply source (i.e., mobile vehicle, e.g., car,

boat plane, etc.; See col. 5, lines 46-50), and a second power input cable end (i.e., connector 35 of Fig. 6) configured to connect to a power input connector interface (i.e., connector 17 and DC-DC converter 37 in Figs. 4 and 6), wherein

- said first power input cable end (i.e., plug 31 of Fig. 6) is configured to connect to an automotive power supply socket (i.e., said plug 31 of Fig. 6 being configured to connect to mobile vehicle, e.g., car, boat plane, etc.; See col. 5, lines 46-50).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included said modular power supply and modular interconnect system, as disclosed by Palatov, in said remote docking station apparatus, as disclosed by Charles, as modified by Germagian, for the advantage of enabling the user to alternate power sources such as vehicle electrical systems (See Palatov, col. 3, lines 51-54).

5. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Charles [US 6,044,215 A] in view of Germagian [US 6,894,457 B2] as applied to claims 1-4, 7-12, 19, 20, 22, and 26 above, and further in view of Reid [US 5,982,614 A]

Referring to claim 13. Charles, as modified by Germagian, discloses all the limitations of the claim 13, except that does not teach said second multipurpose interface cable end is configured to connect to said computer via a plurality of conventional connection interfaces.

Reid discloses a docking station including a port replicator (See Abstract), wherein means for coupling between computer and peripherals (e.g., socket 210, internal circuitry 400 and manual switch 240 in Fig. 2, and cable 300 of Fig. 3) comprising:

- a multipurpose interface cable (i.e., cable 300 of Fig. 1) having a first multipurpose interface cable end (i.e., a second end 312 of Fig. 3) configured to connect to an output connector interface

(i.e., socket 210 of Fig. 2), and a second multipurpose interface cable end (i.e., a first end 320 of Fig. 3) configured to connect to a computer (i.e., desktop computer 110 of Fig. 1), and

- said second multipurpose interface cable end (i.e., said first end) is configured to connect to said computer (i.e., desktop computer) via a plurality of conventional connection interfaces (i.e.,

5 terminators 322, 324, 326 and 328 in Fig. 3; See col. 6, line 57 through col. 7, line 28).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined said means for coupling between computer and peripherals, as disclosed by Reid, with said multipurpose interface cable, as disclosed by Charles, as modified by Germagian, so as to make said remote docking station apparatus support a communication with a computer, which doesn't have a PCMCIA slot, with the additional advantage of providing a simple and straight forward method for
10 selectively interconnecting computer and peripherals (See Reid, col. 7, lines 29-43).

6. Claims 14, 21, 23, 24, 25, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Charles [US 6,044,215 A] in view of Germagian [US 6,894,457 B2] as applied to claims 1-4, 7-12, 19,
15 20, 22, and 26 above, and further in view of Helot [US 6,407,914 B1; cited by the Applicant].

Referring to claim 14. Charles, as modified by Germagian, discloses all the limitations of the claim 14, except that does not teach said second multipurpose interface cable end comprising at least one auxiliary input interface configured to receive an input signal and transmit said input signal to said computer.

20 Helot discloses a docking system for portable computer (See col. 1, lines 5-7), wherein

- a multipurpose interface cable (i.e., interface cable 115 of Fig. 1) having a first multipurpose interface cable end (i.e., dock connector 125 of Fig. 1) configured to connect to an output connector interface (i.e., cable connector of cable dock 130 in Fig. 1), and a second multipurpose

interface cable end (i.e., tray connector 120 of Fig. 1) configured to connect to a computer (i.e., cable connector of receiving tray 105 for portable computer 100 in Fig. 1), and

- said second multipurpose interface cable end (i.e., tray connector) comprising at least one auxiliary input interface (i.e., auxiliary connector 510 of Fig. 5) configured to receive an input signal (e.g., signal from keyboard) and transmit said input signal to said computer (See col. 7, line 55 through col. 8, line 3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included said plurality of conventional connection interfaces (i.e., auxiliary connector), as disclosed by Helot, in said second multipurpose interface cable end, as disclosed by Charles, as modified by Germagian, for the advantage of allowing that the user can connect peripheral devices, which must be located relatively near said computer (i.e., portable computer), directly to said second multipurpose interface cable end (i.e., tray connector) of said multipurpose interface cable (i.e., interface cable; See Helot, col. 8, lines 3-6).

Referring to claims 21, 23, 24, 25, and 27, Charles, as modified by Germagian, discloses all the limitations of the claims 21, 23, 24, 25, and 27, respectively, except that does not expressly teach said at least one peripheral connector interface being configured to receive a USB input, a IEEE 1394 input, a video input, an audio input or an audio output.

Helot discloses a docking system for portable computer (See col. 1, lines 5-7), wherein a remote docking station apparatus (i.e., cable dock 130 of Fig. 1) comprising

- at least one peripheral connector interface (i.e., auxiliary connectors 155 on Cable Dock 130 in Fig. 3) is configured to receive a USB input, a IEEE 1394 input, a video input, an audio input or an audio output (See col. 5, lines 9-19).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included said at least one peripheral connector interface (i.e., auxiliary connectors), as disclosed by Helot, in said remote docking station apparatus (i.e., apparatus for expansion of a computer), as disclosed by Charles, as modified by Germagian, for the advantage of allowing the user to attach
5 peripheral devices directly to said remote docking station apparatus (i.e., cable dock; See Helot, col. 8, lines 40-48).

7. Claim 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Charles [US 6,044,215 A] in view of Germagian [US 6,894,457 B2] as applied to claims 1-4, 7-12, 19, 20, 22, and 26
10 above, and further in view of Moroz et al. [US 6,256,691 B1; hereinafter Moroz].

Referring to claims 17 and 18, Charles, as modified by Germagian, discloses all the limitations of the claims 17 and 18, respectively, except that does not expressly teach said at least one peripheral connector interface is configured to receive a network input or a modem input.

Moroz discloses a universal docking station (See Abstract and Fig. 1), wherein a remote docking
15 station apparatus (i.e., docking station 103 of Fig. 1) comprising

- at least one peripheral connector interface (i.e., interfaces for a plurality of peripheral devices 107-127 in Fig. 1) is configured to receive a network input (i.e., network interface 115 of Fig. 1) and a modem input (i.e., modem 113 of Fig. 1; See col. 3, lines 50-53).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was
20 made to have included said at least one peripheral connector interface (i.e., interfaces for modem and network), as disclosed by Moroz, in said remote docking station apparatus (i.e., apparatus for expansion of a computer), as disclosed by Charles, as modified by Germagian, for the advantage of allowing a portable computer user to interface said computer (i.e., portable computer) to several different peripheral devices, network in particular (See Moroz, col. 3, lines 6-13, and col. 6, lines 57-63).

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed on 8th of March 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to the Applicant's argument with respect to "Further more, it is noted that Charles teaches expanding a portable computer by interfacing the portable computer for use with a plurality of peripheral devices (keyboard, mouse, etc.) which may not normally be compatible for use with that particular portable computer, via a single chassis/housing and a single cable. ... However, unlike Charles, Germagian does not teach, nor does it suggest, interfacing a computer for use with one or more of the peripheral devices. ... Applicant respectfully submits that a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention looking at Charles, would not have been motivated to look to Germagian ... Germagian does not disclose, teach or suggest the desirability of interfacing the multiple devices for use with one another to arrive at the present invention as claimed in independent Claim 1 of the present application." in the Response page 7, line 23 through page 8, line 20, the Examiner respectfully disagrees.

This argument had been discussed and properly responded in the Advisory Action mailed on 17th of February 2006.

Essentially, the Applicant argues that Germagian does not teach, nor does it suggest, interfacing a computer for use with one or more of the peripheral devices, which is unlike Charles. However, in contrary to the Applicant's argument, Germagian suggests interfacing its portable computer so that the portable computer may receive an input from one of the other devices at col. 1, lines 7-11. Furthermore, as is admitted by the Applicant in the Response, page 7, lines 23-25, Charles teaches the above argued elements as well.

Furthermore, in response to the Applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references Charles and Germagian, the Examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is

some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this particular case, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined said power converter (i.e., power adapter), as disclosed by Germagian, with said power converter (i.e., DC power supply board), as disclosed by Charles, for the advantage of accommodating different input power sources, including domestic AC, internal and external DC, and international AC power sources, and providing typical voltages required by portable computers (See Germagian, col. 2, lines 45-47, and col. 5, lines 15-17).

Thus, the Applicant's arguments on this point are not persuasive.

In response to the Applicant's argument with respect to "Further, one of the main objectives of the present invention is to provide a remote docking station as a single unit which incorporates a power converter within the remote docking station. ... Germagian teaches away from this idea by disclosing a power converter which, rather than being integrated into a single docking station, is connected to a power distributor, the power distributor having multiple ports for connecting to a plurality of devices. ... Therefore, Applicant contends that someone looking at the integrated power supply/docking station of Charles, would not have been motivated to look to Germagian, which teaches away from Charles by disclosing a non-integrated power supply ..." in the Response page 8, line 21 through page 9, line 8, the Examiner believes that the Applicant misinterprets the claim rejection.

This argument had been discussed and properly responded in the Advisory Action mailed on 17th of February 2006.

Essentially, the Applicant argues that Germagian does not suggest a remote docking station as a single unit which incorporates a power converter within the remote docking station.

However, the primary reference Charles teaches the argued elements (See the Final Office Action, page 2, line 13 through page 3, line 12).

Thus, the Applicant's argument on this point is not persuasive.

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 in the Response pages 6 and 7 have been

5 considered but are moot in view of the new ground of rejection.

In fact, the Applicant argues with the new issue being drawn to the limitation, i.e., means for selecting a power output level from at least two power output levels that is to set the power output level available at said power output side of said power output converter, which had not been considered in the prior Office Action. Thus, the Applicant's argument on this point is moot in view of further consideration
10 requirement.

However, the Examiner notes that the extended scope of the claimed invention is still suggested by the combination of Charles and Germagian (See paragraph 3 of the instant Office Action, claims 1-4, 7-12, 19, 20, 22, and 26 rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Charles in view of Germagian).

15 *Conclusion*

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher E. Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-3637. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor,
20 Rehana Perveen can be reached on 571-272-3676. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair->

- 5 direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Christopher E. Lee
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2112

CEL/

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher E. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.